

## Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities

### Minutes November 18, 2003

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Chairperson Gail Sokolowski in Meeting Room B. Those present were Ms. Sokolowski, Jerry Berrier, Emily Gerber, Loretta Henry and John Harris along with guest Russ Henry. The ADA coordinator, Mr. Morgado was not present due to a death in the family

Motion to accept minutes of October 14, 2003 meeting made by Mr. Berrier and seconded by Ms. Henry.

Assistant Town Manager, Michael Hale had volunteered to come to our meeting if necessary but we felt we could manage without disturbing him from his other duties.

Mr. Harris asked if Mr. Morgado had responded to our request to make the installation of the van accessible parking space(s) at the Town Office Building a priority. Ms. Sokolowski responded that she had e-mailed Mr. Morgado with our request. Mr. Morgado responded that he would take that into consideration.

Mr. Harris expressed concern about what the Gymnastics Learning Center was installing for a lift. Ms. Henry questioned whether establishments requested information about accessibility issues from those who would know. Mr. Harris replied that the answer was no. Not even town departments sought assistance from our commission in most cases. Ms Henry mentioned that initially access to a ladies room at the Senior Center was a straight path but later a wall was added that made travel more difficult. Ms. Sokolowski expressed her gratitude that today many people with disabilities are speaking up and making others aware of their needs.

No Liaison report.

No appointments.

Questions/comments/announcements:

Ms. Sokolowski received a memo from Angela Snell, Parks and Recreation Director, informing us that construction of the accessible ramp to the bandstand at Dean Park has been delayed. Construction should begin on or about May 1, 2004 and should be completed before Memorial Day.

No bills.

New business:

License for Elsa's Eatery. No concerns were mentioned by any members so the standard letter was sent. An e-mail was received from Joe Bellil advising us that REDD was seeking support in getting a report on the design of the roundabout at Washington Square in Worcester when the 75% stage was reached. The Commission took this issue under advisement and decided to take no action at this time. Mr. Berrier stated that roundabouts are very unfriendly to those who are blind and that he had heard that an overhead walkway would be installed on as part of the construction.

Old Business:

We will wait to hear if Mr. Morgado has an update on the accessible parking areas at Nations Rent. Mr. Harris has not drafted the letter to the Chief of Police regarding number of tickets for HP parking violations.

Communications:

No phone messages.

Selectmen forwarded a letter of information on NOD (National Organization on Disabilities).

We received a copy of the "Senior Edition" from the Council on Aging.

Center for Living and Working newsletter.

Mr. Harris received a letter from the AAB regarding U-MASS Community Physicians response to complaint on HP parking. They will be installing signage and relocating a few spaces to correct the problem.

Next meeting December 9, 2003 Meeting Room A.

Do we want to suspend our meetings in January and February? This is due to the possibility of bad weather. Several pros and cons were discussed on this matter. We will vote on this at the December 9, meeting.

Meeting adjourned made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Henry at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Harris  
Secretary